

"Building our sense of community"

Shelton State Courier

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Shelton State Community College

Feb. 6, 2003 — Feb. 20, 2003

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Future Issues

This is the second Courier of the year. We will publish 16 more issues this year. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the Courier editorial office at 391-2406.

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Marking time

The completion of this clock tower on the front lawn of Shelton State is drawing near. The clock tower, complete with 24 bronze bells, four back-lit clock dials — each six feet in diameter—and carillon instruments with fully automatic operation, will be dedicated in April.

Student a model of perseverance

By Jonathan King

At the age of two, current Shelton student Brock Cochran fell out of a shopping cart onto his head, fracturing his skull. Doctors said that the injury had healed, but over time, the effects of the fall began to surface in the form of learning disabilities. In elementary school, Cochran would have to ask the teacher dozens of questions each day. In high school, he would struggle with subjects like algebra, a class which he and his mother would spend multiple hours a night studying.

Cochran was finally diagnosed with very mild forms of Tourette's syndrome,

narcolepsy, fine motor skill problems, memory loss, and audio/visual impairment. The special education staff at Hoover High devised a plan to help with Cochran's disabilities. He worked hard and followed the plan. Not only has he become an excellent student, but through a workout routine he developed at Hoover High, Cochran has developed into a fitness model worthy of the five-page spread featuring him in this quarter's *Men's Exercise* magazine.

Cochran was also recently featured in the *Birmingham News* for the accomplishment he has made regarding his disabilities. Not only have the efforts made to help Cochran ben-

efited him, but they now benefit all students like him throughout Alabama. His experience and life are now the focus of a CD used by educators as a tool for preparing teachers to handle students with similar disabilities.

Cochran is now an A-B sophomore at Shelton State, so the *Courier* sat down with him to find out how he has adapted to college life. He replied to the question of whether or not it was a problem adapting by saying, "No it really wasn't. By the time I got here, I had taught myself to adapt. It be-

By Beth Blalock

Alabama history and politics have always intrigued me. I remember as a young girl sitting in fifth grade Alabama History learning about Montgomery and our state's majestic white Capitol. I also remember studying Alabama's great political leaders like George Wallace, Lurleen Wallace, Fob James, and Jim Folsom. And, the first time I watched an inauguration on television, I was in awe. I knew one day I wanted to attend one of these spectacular, pageant filled affairs. Recently, this dream came true.

Three weeks ago the 53rd Governor of the state of Alabama, Bob Riley, was inaugurated and I had the unique opportunity to experience this special event first-hand.

The inaugural adventure began on Sunday, Jan. 19 with the ladies luncheon, which was held at the Embassy Suites. When we arrived at the hotel, Governor Riley was milling around. We visited for a few minutes and took a couple of candid photos.

Over 3,000 ladies and special



Shelton student Beth Blalock with Gov. Bob Riley at the inauguration in Montgomery.

guests attended the luncheon. The program was touching and paid tribute to the incoming First Lady, Patsy Riley. Special remarks were made by Riley's two daughters and a few close friends. In addition, there was a special presentation made by Southern Fragrance Gallery, which had designed a fragrance entitled Alabama Lady, honoring the first lady.

Sunday night's highlight was the Republican's Inaugural Gala. (In fact, this was my favorite event of all.) The

History cont'd on pg. 3



Brock Cochran

Photo by Jonathan King

Model cont'd on pg. 3

Gouge O'Life

By Ben Herdman

Do it again

Lock 13, my alternative rock band, was down on the coast this past week to do some recording. The agenda was to go to the studio, record a few songs, and then to hit downtown Mobile.

The recording session was tedious and taxing. It always is. You lay down a track or two, and the producer says, "That really sucks. Do it again."

We do it again.

"That sucks even more. Do it again!" This is supposed to be a pep talk. Altogether, it took us 12 hours to put down three songs.

It was 11 p.m. and time to go downtown. I was sleep deprived and drained of energy. I wasn't sure I could hold out.

First, we crashed at a place called The Coyote to see a band called You Lying B****, an accomplished cover band that played songs from musicians ranging from Prince to Black Sabbath to George

Clinton. By midnight, the place was packed with hip-hopsters, punks, metalheads, bikers, frat kids, derelicts, hippies, and ritzy big shots. And the women, ah yes, the women were just wonderful.

The band was getting into their heavier repertoire and the crowd was really getting into it. One guy stumbled his way on stage and began dirty dancing with the singer. After the singer nudged the guy off, this dude dove sloppily into the crowd.

I'm sure he expected the audience to catch him, but they all moved out of his way, and he took a nasty spill to the floor.

Ouch.

Once 2 a.m. rolled around, the guys and I decided to check out more of the Mobile night-life. We walked a few blocks to a place called The Burlap Sack, a smaller bar crawling with college kids, the irresponsible, noisy type. The



Illustration by Abbot

music in there was unique—one man, an acoustic guitar, and a mike. He played a menagerie of pop songs, but the way he did it was completely unconventional. One number impressed me especially. He was jamming on a Dave Matthews song, but he was rapping Dr. Dre on top of it.

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"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



The brightest star in our beautiful winter nighttime skies is referred to as the "Dog Star" and is in the constellation commonly called "Big Dog."

The official name of this star is Sirius and it is many times larger than our star—the Sun. Because of its large size, it operates at very high temperatures and appears blue-white in color.

To locate Sirius, simply look above the southeastern horizon for a very bright star. It is in one of the two hunting dog constellations that are running after their master Orion, the

mighty hunter.

Sirius makes the upper shoulder/head area of the larger dog that is officially referred to as Canis Major. To the right side of Sirius is its front legs and below are the dog's rear end and back legs.

Above the Dog Star is another rather bright star—Procyon—and along with a dimmer star beside it makes the constellation Canis Minor—the Little Dog.

The mighty hunter, Orion, is located to the right of his two dogs and is easy to recognize by the three very bright stars that make his belt. Orion's up-

The Dog Star

per shoulder star, Betelgeuse, is also very bright and reddish in color. This star, along with each of the bright dog stars, make a huge triangle that is easy to locate and is referred to as the Winter Triangle.

On another note, a question on the TV show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" was about the Dog Star. The question was: "What is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major?" I recall the contestant getting it correct!

Keep looking up, take a walk on one of our cool, clear nights, and find Orion's trusted friends—his two dogs—Canis Minor and Canis Major.

Off the Shelf . . .

By Glen Johnson

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

On the Best-Seller Shelf...

Don't Know How She Does It is Allison Pearson's new novel that looks at women's attempts to balance career and motherhood. In this case, it's hedge-fund manager Kate Reddy who has to bounce between the boardroom and the nursery. In doing so she cross-pollinates both her lives in a story that swings between funny and sad.

Give Michael Crichton credit—he never gives up. Af-

ter having frightened readers with dinosaurs in *Prey*, he now conjures up a cloud of nanoparticles, microscopic robots, that have escaped the confines of their lab and are threatening all of Nevada. Read it if you dare.

I, Richard is a collection of five scary tales by Elizabeth George and they're guaranteed to keep you reading. From a marriage built on a series of lies to a homicidal teacher, George knows how to draw the reader in and doesn't let go until the final page.

An Avenue of Opportunities

Students in the communication studies program learn important skills necessary to compete for high-paying professional careers.

Interpersonal, group, and presentational skills are among the many areas targeted within this program. According to *Job Outlook 2003*, "Every year for the past five years, employers have placed communication skills at the top of their wish lists. They also prize job candidates who show experience in

teamwork, who have interpersonal skills, and who seem motivated and show initiative."

In fact, most job descriptions require that applicants possess excellent communication skills with the ability to work in team environments. Therefore, a degree in communication studies will benefit students in many areas: personally, educationally, and professionally.

For more information contact Angela Gibson at 391-2937.

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submis-

sions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

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History cont'd from pg. 1

ballroom, at the Embassy, was filled with many friends and acquaintances that I had met during the last eight years of my life. There was a lot of time for catching up and a few twirls around the dance floor.

During the evening, Governor and his wife made a quick appearance and several dignitaries were present including Attorney General Bill Pryor, incoming State Auditor Beth Chapman, incoming Treasurer Kay Ivey and many others.

On Monday, Jan. 20, we had a full agenda. Our first stop was the Supreme Court Building. At 9:30 a.m. in the Supreme Courtroom, Kay Ivey was administered the oath of office for treasurer.

At 10:30 a.m., there was the robing ceremony for Justice Harold See, and Judges William Thompson, Pamela Baschab and H.W. "Bucky" McMillan. While at the Judicial Building, we took a moment to visit the controversial Ten Commandments Statue.

Immediately after the robing ceremony, we rushed to the steps of the capitol to find our place among the masses for the 11:30 a.m. inaugural ceremony. Lining Dexter Avenue were Alabamians from all walks of life and media crews from all across the state.

Time was ticking away on the Capitol's black round clock. We were only moments away from the inauguration of the 53rd governor of the state of Alabama, Robert Renfro Riley.

With over 10,000 people watching, the stage was set. There was the awarding of the "Spirit of Alabama" Medal.

Riley created this as one of his first acts by signing an executive order commissioning the medal to be bestowed each year on residents who possess the "Spirit of Alabama in their hearts" and have used it to change this nation and the world.

This year's recipients included: Mrs. Johnnie Carr, a civil rights pioneer; Retired Army Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, a

Vietnam Veteran; Mike Spann, the father of Johnnie Spann; and the musical group Alabama.

As the governor approached the stand to take the oath of office, his wife and family joined him. Ms. Patsy assisted by holding the two Bibles. The first was the Riley family Bible and the second was the bible that has been used for governors swearing in since 1853. Chief Justice Roy Moore administered the oath.

Before, Riley made his inaugural address, there was a 19 round military salute and jet fly over.

Gov. Riley's address was optimistic. He began by calling for God's divine guidance. He spoke on unity and breaking down barriers that divide the state. He mentioned the current economic and educational crisis in our state. He talked about change and reminded that it comes slowly and only with perseverance. He also asked for patience, trust, understanding, help and prayer. And, he referred frequently to "The Spirit of Alabama" and rekindling that spirit which lives within each of us.

Kicking off the evening's activities was a reception at the Capitol City Club honoring Attorney General Bill Pryor.

Finally, it was time to dress for the final affair — The Inaugural Ball. All of us were dressed to the hilt in our formal attire. Fortunately, the ball, being held at the Montgomery Civic Center, was very near by.

When we arrived, there was a sea of people dressed in sequined and beaded gowns, beautiful furs and full tail tuxes.

Birmingham radio personalities, Rick and Bubba officiated the event. The hit musical group, Alabama, performed "My Home's In Alabama" as the first couple danced. Alabama continued to entertain the ball goers for several hours. The evening had a flair of down-home elegance.

The weekend's events certainly rekindled the "Spirit of Alabama" in me, and I am even more proud to claim "My Home's in Alabama!"



Emphasizing the community in the community college

Shelton State President Rick Rogers addresses the approximately 80 boy scout leaders who met on the Martin campus Jan. 25. The leaders were boning up on their scoutcraft in anticipation of heading back to their troops. The event was the annual Scouting University program. Rogers spoke of his delight when the community sees Shelton as an important resource for the community at large. "We are particularly glad to work with the Boy Scouts who work to mold young people's lives," Rogers said.

Model cont'd from pg. 1

came a blessing in the long run. I had to learn to work hard at an early age, so I have developed good learning skills."

He also added that, unlike the algebra classes that bogged him down in high school, he has had no one class that has caused him any real problems. He did, however, cite one problem that many people struggle with.

"Mainly processing speed, which allows a student to process information on tasks such as tests and quizzes quickly, but that is no sign of intelligence according to the doctor I go to. But, I am allotted extra time to take my tests to alleviate the

pressure of having to speed through." When Cochran spoke about his goals for the future, both for himself and others who experience the same thing, he had this to say:

"Throughout, there has been a small group who really have helped, they really poured themselves into me. I want to work in an area that has me working with people and helping others. I see that as what I want to do in the future. I will be giving back what was given to me and enjoying it. Because I know how much it meant to me and affected my life when someone helped me."

Again cont'd from pg. 2

I cheered the guy on and threw pocket change at him.

John Childer's, Lock 13's singer and official lady-killer, came up to me and asked if he could get me another drink.

I told him to bring me a hearse. I

was about to fall over from exhaustion, and I was afraid I might never get back up again. I hadn't slept in 30-something hours.

He left and came back with another drink. I took one sip and fell over from exhaustion.

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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—



Lady Bucs score 105 points against Cougars

By Kim West

It's hard enough to beat the Shelton State women's basketball team at home, where they haven't lost a game since the 2000-2001 season. But as Lawson State found out on Feb. 3, the Lady Bucs can simply embarrass an opponent when they have something to prove.

After a disappointing road loss at Northwest-Shoals two nights earlier, Shelton State dominated the overmatched Lady Cougars en route to a 105-36 win at the Umphrey Center and extended their home win streak to 9-0 this season.

Shelton State head coach Madonna Thompson attributed her team's success at home to "pure pride."

"We talk over and over about how we don't let anyone come in this gym, where we work out tails off every day, and beat us," Thompson said. "We just don't lose at home."

Shelton State improved to 16-6 overall and 8-2 in conference play with the state tournament less than a month away. Lawson State dropped to 3-20.

Despite building a 41-17 lead by halftime, the Lady Bucs struggled to find their rhythm. But with over 12 minutes left to play in the second half, Shelton

State built a 40-point lead.

"The first half was OK, but in the second half we came out and played really well," Thompson said. "We ran the floor and shot the ball well. Given the game we were playing, we played as well as we possibly could."

Porous defense by Lawson State allowed the Lady Bucs to score a variety of ways, including several open three-point shots and fast-break lay-ups. The Lady Cougars also struggled offensively, and at one point didn't score for over five minutes.

Every Shelton State player scored, with five finishing in double-figures. Laura Rombokas dropped in a season-high 21 points and fellow freshman Emily Nalls added 18.

Leading scorer Marquitta Hillman missed her first start of the season after twisting her ankle at NWSCC while defending a shot. Thompson lists her as "day-to-day."

The Lady Bucs host Wallace-Selma tonight. The following week, they also host Southern Union (Feb. 10), Wallace-Hanceville (Feb. 13) and conference power Gadsden State (Feb. 15). All games tip off at 5:30 p.m., with free admission for students.



Shelton freshman guard Laura Rombokas makes her way around a defender during a Jan. 30 showdown against Faulkner. The Lady Bucs slaughtered the team 90-37. The Lady Bucs are now 16-6 and will host Southern Union on Feb. 10 and Wallace-Hanceville on Feb. 13. All games will start at 5:30. Admission is free for students.

Photo by Sparrow Estes

Bucs fight to 18-3

By Robert Milz

The ups and downs of a long season were etched into the face of Shelton Head Coach Barry Mohun Monday night, Feb. 3, toward the end of the first half of the game against Lawson State.

The Bucs were in the process of blowing a 15-point lead and Mohun could not hide his disgust. When Lawson hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to take an actual lead, Mohun hardly reacted. Figures, his slightly arched eyebrow said.

Fortunately, after an audible pep talk the Bucs came back to win 88-77. The team is now 18-3.

On Jan. 27, the Bucs beat Beville-Walker 86-77. It was a close game; the Bucs fell behind a few times, but came

back at the end.

The Bucs lost their last home game on Jan. 30. They played the Faulkner State Sun Chiefs and were beat 81-71. It was their first loss at home since last year's state championship.

The Sun Chiefs took no time at all to put 20 more points on the board than Shelton. "We never should have let ourselves get in that position," Bucs manager Jason Bowen commented after the game.

During the second half the Bucs tried to come back, and they did. The Bucs were ahead until the last two minutes in the game. Unfortunately, the Bucs lost their team captain, Tim Lewis. He was ejected from the game for leaving the bench to stop a fight from beginning.

Near the end of the half the Bucs lost control of the boards. They started to foul the Sun Chiefs and lost the game.



Shelton sophomore guard Tim Lewis drives to the lane during a recent game against Faulkner.

Photo by Sparrow Estes

Upcoming Buccaneer games

Feb. 10
Southern Union
Feb. 13
Wallace-Hanceville
Feb. 15
Gadsden State
Feb. 20
Beville-Walker
Feb. 22
Beville-Fayette

For the ambitious tech student, WorkKeys could be key

Second of a multi-part series on technical education opportunities at Shelton

By Amy P. Oswalt

Job competition can be brutal. Such is the case at Mercedes — where the average pay is \$65,000 per year. In the next round of hiring, Mercedes will be able to pick from among 26,000 applicants to fill 2,000 openings. Perhaps Shelton's technical students will have an edge in future hirings like the one at Mercedes because of the programs that have been put to work for them.

One such program is the educational innovation, WorkKeys, which is cranking up in all 50 states. Through WorkKeys, Shelton is leading the way for Tuscaloosa industries to take the hit-and-miss guesswork out of hiring and promoting employees.

With this program, Shelton has put its students in the forefront of getting a successful position within these industries. With competition for the best jobs rising in companies in Tuscaloosa and the surrounding area, graduating technical students are going to need this extra one-up over the next applicant.

WorkKeys is making it easier for employers to know if applicants have the necessary skills to make it at their company, and for students to be sure that they have what it takes to succeed. WorkKeys is supplying everybody with the answers that they are looking for.

"WorkKeys enables students to have confidence rather than rely on guesswork. WorkKeys has answers," said Linda Grote, associate dean for administrative services.

WorkKeys essentially contains three parts: assessing the student's basic job skills, targeted instruction, and job profiling. The first step for students is to take the WorkKeys test, which evaluates skills such

How Shelton students feel about technical education

69% haven't considered going into a technical field at Shelton

31% have considered going into a technical field at Shelton

57% feel a technical degree is "OK"

29% feel a technical degree is "prestigious"

5% are interested in technical degrees

as reading for information, applied math and teamwork.

The results are then compared to a job profile that the student has selected as the career they want to have when they graduate. The job profile contains the scores needed to be able to perform well at the chosen job.

For example, if a student receives a score of four in applied math and the job profile requires a five for that specific job, the student then has the opportunity to build and expand those skills through KeyTrain, a computer-based tutorial.

KeyTrain consists of targeted-instruction lessons that help students learn and practice basic workplace skills. "The KeyTrain pre-assessment and WorkKeys are geared to each other. Students can work in KeyTrain to bring up their scores," said Grote.

WorkKeys is being used by companies such as JVC,

Phifer Wire, Hunt Refining Co. and Hanna Steel. "We use WorkKeys for promoting employees," said Sandy Kornegay in the human resource department at JVC.

Phifer Wire has added WorkKeys to their employment application and will start using it as a screening tool in the future. Compared with other programs of its kind, "WorkKeys is the only one that has ever been validated in the workplace," said Russell Dubose, human resource specialist for Phifer Wire, "It's really comprehensive."

"WorkKeys will be as common as people taking the ACT in the future," said Dubose. The ACT test is required for college-bound students, and according to Dubose and other WorkKeys specialists, the WorkKeys test will one day be required for all job-applicants and employees in line for promotions.

"As the economy gets better, WorkKeys will be integrated into businesses and a snowball effect will happen; at first, a few businesses will use WorkKeys and then it will gain momentum," said Dubose.

That same momentum has not seemed to catch on with students who are not grasping the importance of WorkKeys. With experts predicting that most industries across the country will be using WorkKeys in the near future, students who are familiar with what is on the test will have the advantage over their fellow applicants and/or co-workers.

In other words, graduating students may not be required to have WorkKeys scores when they are hired. But in a couple of years, when they are up for promotion, most companies will be using the WorkKeys test as the basis for who gets that promotion.

Being familiar with WorkKeys and KeyTrain will put technical students ahead in finding a job and being promoted within companies. Everyone wants to know what is on a test before you have to take it; Shelton State technical students have that advantage.



The Annual Patriot Run

On Feb. 1 at Shelton, as usual, saw a large turnout of cardio-enthusiasts use the park-like environs of the college for its course. The event is a fund-raiser for the Hillcrest High School Junior ROTC program. Economics instructor Bill Aldridge (L) helps get the runners started on the 5-K fun.



Footloose

The Hillcrest Middle School Dance Line entertained Shelton fans with a patriotic halftime show during the Buccaneers' basketball game on Feb. 3. Hillcrest Middle School is part of Shelton's Adopt-A-School program.

Black History Month Program

Zelpha Wells to be honored with tribute

By Jonathan King

She has been featured on the Oprah show and in *Time* magazine. She has received the "Alabama Hero Award," an induction to the Alabama Jazz Hall of fame, and the Governors State Award, along with many other honors.

She has played everywhere from Montgomery to New York City. Her name is Zelpha Storey Wells, and there will be a musical tribute in her honor put on by Shelton State Community College during this Black History Month.

When you see her credentials written out on paper, you are inclined to believe that this woman strove to reach her dreams to become a star and did not

But then you read her story, and you are amazed to find that her music is not found on the shelves of record stores, but in the hearts of students that she has taught, (and continues to teach), for free. Yes, free.

Zelpha Wells was raised in Tusca-

loosa, and her parents found that at a young age, she could play nearly any instrument that she heard. Her father, normally a barber, would work for extra money cleaning the First Presbyterian Church, while Zelpha tagged along to help out with the dusting. She would toy around on the pianos while she dusted, and one day ear of the organist.

Priscilla Anne Keeler, recognizing the young girl's talent, offered to teach Wells how to play the organ. Not only did Keeler give the lessons for free, but she also bought young Wells's instruction books.

This act of kindness had quite an impact on Zelpha Wells, who, after graduating from Talladega College, began teaching piano in Alabama and Tennessee. She, at one point, ventured to Mont-

gomery to have funds allocated for the purpose of a music program including free lessons. All the money that the program

went to teaching students; Wells received none of it.

In 1976, Wells formed the Cultural Development Corporation. Though, they did not have a lot of money to look after, the non-profit status of CDC allowed them to apply for grants.

Around that time, while Wells was inquiring about a house to turn into a music center, Mose Swaim, the owner of the house, presented it to Wells as a gift.

He had heard of the work she had been doing and could not accept payment from her. The house was moved to a location that Wells picked out, and was refurbished by technical students from the area using almost all donated materials. The center continues to teach children the joys of music to this day.

Had it not been for Wells, hundreds of children would have been deprived of a future that involved musical knowledge.

Wells never charted a hit, nor sold pave the way for talented youngsters to find a passion and love for music, and she did it selflessly.

That is why Zelpha Wells will be honored on Feb. 28th, though the honors bestowed on her will never be able to attest to the many lives she has touched

*Had it not been for Wells,
hundreds of children
would have been deprived
of a future that involved
musical knowledge*

Cole, Cheronos to be inducted into Stage and Screen HOF



Nat "King" Cole



Tom Cheronos

Nat King Cole and Tom Cheronos have been selected to be inducted into the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame. The two will be inducted on March 15 at the Bean-Brown Theatre.

Cole, born in Montgomery, was the first African-American to host his own television show, called *The Nat King Cole Show*. He also appeared in the films *St. Louis Blues* and *Cat Ballou*. He died in 1965.

Cheronos, a Tuscaloosa native, was the producer and director of the first 86 episodes of *Seinfeld* and has also directed and produced episodes of the television shows *Ellen*, *Boston Public* and *Growing Pains*.

Inductees into the ASSHOF, which was founded in 1998 as a joint project of Theatre Tuscaloosa and Shelton State, include Alabama natives. Past inductees include Tallulah Bankhead, Fannie Flagg, Truman Capote, Rebecca Luker, Dean Jones and George "Goober" Lindsey.

The induction is a black-tie event and will include a silent auction, cocktail reception and induction ceremony. A dance with buffet will follow the ceremony.

For tickets to the event, call 391-2277.

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For the Good Times

On Feb. 4 the American Spiritual Ensemble gave a bravo performance in the Bean-Brown Theatre.

Led by former Shelton music instructor Everett McCorvey, the group brought the house down more than once with its stirring presentation of spiritual favorites.

On hand to greet the now nationally recognized music impresario was Dr. Arthur Howington (L), former dean of Shelton who hired McCorvey back in the 1980s.

This evening the saints came marching in to the beat of bongos, a pounding piano and rhythmically clapping hands.

Survivor offers media insights

By Robert Milz

Chuck Palahniuk, author of *Fight Club* and *Invisible Monsters*, offer a satiric look into our present media-crazed society in his novel *Survivor*. Palahniuk's style is original and intriguingly dark.

Survivor is about a man named Tender Branson, a pathetic person who is struggling to fit into everyday life. He is a butler/servant obsessed with death.

Tender Branson comes from a cult named the *Creedish Death Cult* after the entire cult commits mass suicide, or what is thought to be suicide. When Tender is realized to be the last living member of the cult the media comes to claim him.

Suddenly, he jumps from a lonely servant to a media mogul, when they turn

him into the next Billy Graham televangelist.

The book offers a realistic look into the true nature of the media business.

Corruption, self-destruction, salvation and murder seem to haunt Tender through his journey. Eventually, Tender becomes obsessed with himself and his new life style.

Survivor is a must read for anyone who appreciates sarcasm. It offers a full plot, memorable characters, and a fresh view of ourselves as a culture.

All of Palahniuk's books share a common feel but are completely original at the same time.

If you like this book, I recommend *Fight Club* and *Choke* or his latest novel, *Lullaby*.



Jewish Film Festival to be held Feb. 15-18

TUSCALOOSA — The Arts Council of Tuscaloosa and Temple Emanuel of Tuscaloosa are proud to present Tuscaloosa's first Jewish Film Festival Feb. 15-18.

The films will be screened at the Bama Theatre in downtown Tuscaloosa and the Ferguson Center Theatre on the University of Alabama campus.

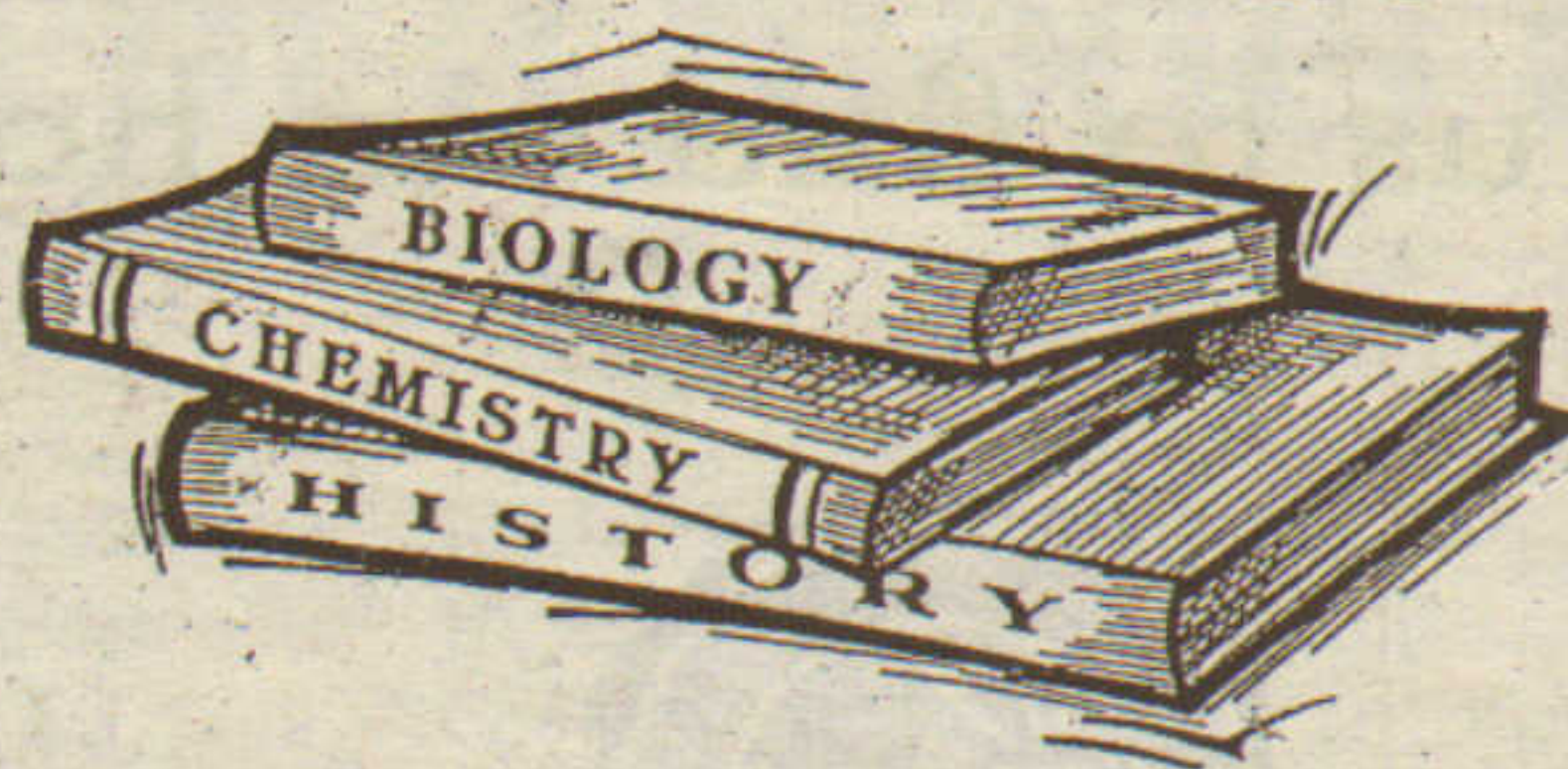
The festival is also presented in partnership with University Programs of the University of Alabama, Stillman College.

In addition to the cultural and artistic benefits of the festival, the members of the partnership also hope to encourage acceptance and understanding throughout the West Alabama community.

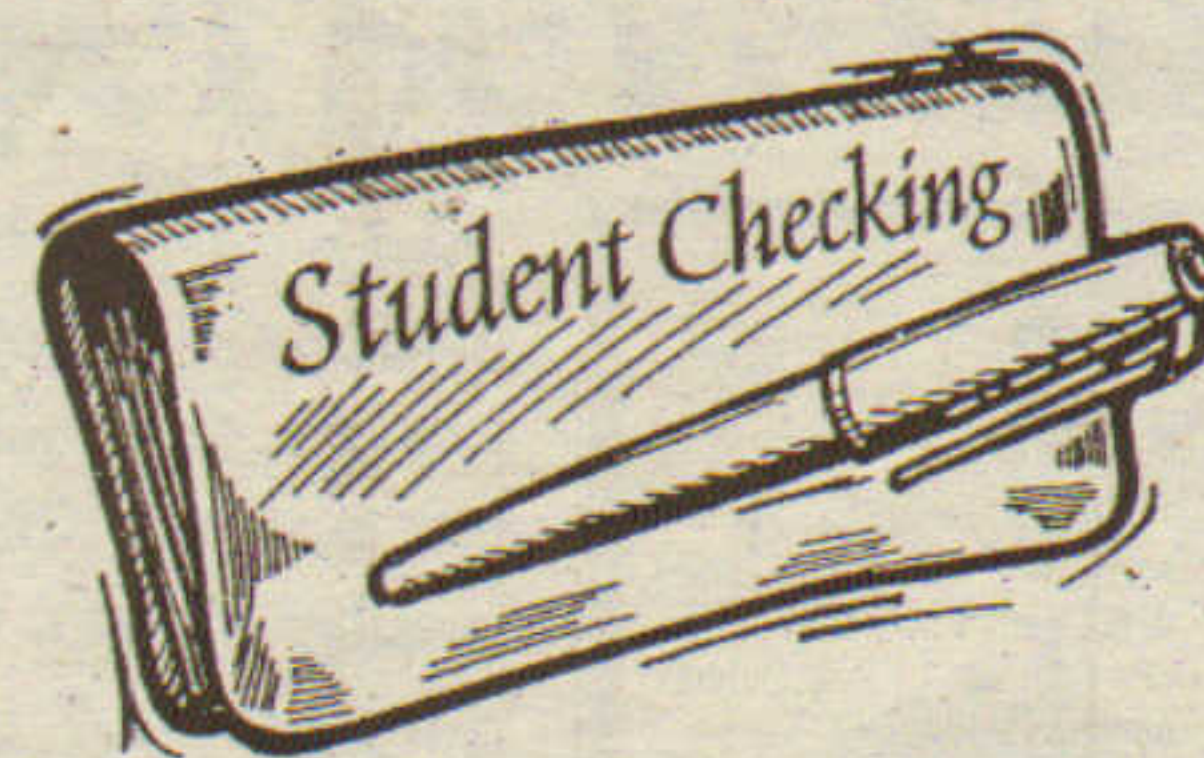
Admission is \$5 per screening, with the exception of *From Swastika to Jim Crow* at the Ferguson Theatre, which will be free of charge.

For more information, please call (205) 758-8083.

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